

Appl. No. 10/006,580
Amdt. dated January 4, 2007
Reply to Office action of 10/20/06

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103," item 2 on pages 2-4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-6 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0023187 A1 to Chang et al. (hereinafter Chang) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a device for defining a control system with a plurality of neutral participants, the device comprising:

a control system configured to control a printing machine, said control system including a central computer and a plurality of the neutral participants, the neutral participants interacting with said central computer in order to carry out processes;

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a bus system including lines, the participants being connected to said central computer via said lines of said bus system;

said lines of said bus system and the participants having respective plugs connecting said lines to the participants; and

at least one of said plugs of said lines of said bus system having reserved plug contacts, said reserved plug contacts being provided with at least one galvanic link, and said at least one galvanic link being detected and interpreted by a participant.

Independent claim 4 contains similar language.

Thus, claims 1 and 4 call for at least one galvanic link being detected and interpreted by a participant. Support for the changes is found on page 5, lines 10-12 of the Specification of the instant application.

It is believed that amended claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Chang for the following reasons:

1. The Chang reference discloses a CPU to which different memory modules are connected. The modules are 168-pin modules and 184-pin modules. The exchangeability is only provided in the 168-pin modules where caution must be exercised as to which 168 pins are plugged into the slot. It appears as though a mechanical lock is necessary in Chang so

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as to avoid a transposition. If one looks at Figs. 5a and 5b of Chang, one can recognize that the pins are left-aligned to 240, 250, 260, 270. Thus, a mechanical alignment (adjustment) is necessary.

In contrast, in accordance with the present invention, a transposition of all of the participants is possible, so that each participant can be plugged at each position along the set of lines (see page 5, line 19 et seq. of the instant application). An advantage of the present invention in this regard is that, from an economic point of view, all participants are manufactured the same and high costs are not incurred with regard to the management of replacement parts. This makes it possible for a service technician to repair a machine with a small number of replacement parts.

2. In order to select the memory modules, Chang uses a control chipset 220 with which a corresponding memory location is chosen that is either to be written to or read out. Components of that type for selecting the various memory modules are known from the state of the art. This means that the memory modules are passive and cannot decide on their own whether or not the pending information is relevant for them. In addition, a jumper determines whether

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or not the memory module is in a write mode (see paragraph 40 of Chang).

In contrast, in accordance with the present invention, the participants determine the galvanic link themselves and, in doing so, recognize which task they have to perform (see page 5, line 8 et seq. of the instant application).

Thus, a fundamental difference is seen in the Chang device, which is that the memory modules are passive. This means that they are controlled by the chipset mounted into the data bus. Contrary thereto, the participant is active in the present invention. This means that it takes the information relevant for it from the bus.

Clearly, Chang does not show at least one galvanic link being detected and interpreted by a participant, as recited in claims 1 and 4 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 4. Claims 1 and 4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 4.

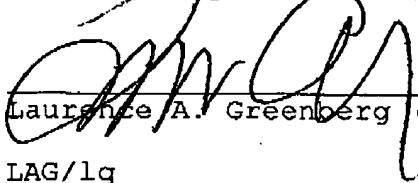
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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP. Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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